

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. Selectmen present were: James McIlroy and Michael Woodworth. Wes Moore joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Chief Reed, Officer Nate Liebenow, Michael Price, Steve Shope, Elizabeth Hackett, Dr. Tom Hackett, Bob Battles, Scott Moulton, and Everett Moulton.

Chief Reed introduced the new full-time officer, Nate Liebenow, to the Board of Selectmen.

The Police Department will be applying for DWI Grants this year.

The first Hazardous Mitigation Plan Committee meeting will take place this coming Monday.

The Police Department needs a vacuum cleaner for their new rug. Chief Reed will purchase one from Lowes.

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire has asked for any recommendations or changes to the proposed Piscassic Greenway Management Plan which was submitted to the Town last month. Michael Price and Steve Shope met with the Selectmen to discuss this matter. It was decided that a letter will be sent to the Land Trust asking that a pedestrian/mountain bike bridge be built in order to have a year-round connector trail between Halls Mill Road and the Rail Trail. The Town would like the construction of this bridge to be completed within three years. Steve Shope volunteered to provide the specific location of the bridge to be constructed on the maps of the Piscassic Greenway which should be included in the correspondence to the Southeast Land Trust.

Both Michael and Steve want to remain active on the Piscassic Greenway Management Committee until all of the commitments have been completed. Steve volunteered to be in charge of the bridge construction.

The Selectmen will draft a letter to the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire with the above mentioned requests which will be reviewed by Michael and Steve.

Elizabeth Hackett came to the meeting at the Selectmen's request to discuss the fact that she has moved into her new home without an Occupancy Permit. The Selectmen advised Elizabeth that the Selectmen may issue a Cease and Desist Order and fine her each day

the home is occupied without a permit. They do not want to take that action, but must have some cooperation from Elizabeth such as receiving her plans in writing.

Elizabeth stated that she has handed the old house over to the Fire Department along with a letter of Indemnity, and a history of the home. Jeff Buxton has told Elizabeth that he hopes the Fire Department will burn down the building in late March or early April, 2008. He is waiting for final approval from the State in order to proceed.

The Selectmen will have the Town Counsel draft an agreement between the Town of Newfields and Elizabeth Hackett, to be signed by all parties, agreeing to occupancy of the new home based on the fact that the old home will be burned by the Newfields Fire Department by May 15th, 2008. The Selectmen will notify the Building Inspector of this decision and ask that he issue a temporary Occupancy Certificate. It was noted that if the building has not been destroyed by May 15th, Elizabeth may ask for an extension.

Bob Battles met with the Selectmen on behalf of John Bernier. The Planning Board was asked to waive some of the legal fees charged to Bernier Corp. with regard to their application to the Board. Bob said the Planning Board informed him that they do not have the authority to waive fees and recommended that he meet with the Selectmen. Bob feels that some of the charges were incurred before the application was submitted to the Planning Board and his client should not be responsible for those fees.

James recommended that Mr. Bernier make payment now on those invoices that he feels are accurate. A discussion on the remaining invoices will determine which Board has jurisdiction and then the appropriate Board will make the final decision on whether or not to waive any fees.

Bob suggested that the Planning Board state at the first meeting of discussion on any new project any concerns the Board might have with the application that would result in legal or other fees payable by the applicant.

The Local Health Officer Nomination of Eugene Perreault was signed. His term will expire in December, 2008.

A settlement agreement between the Town of Newfields and the Silversteins was received.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was received regarding the cell tower. The sound study was completed, Light Tower LLC is registered to do business in New Hampshire, and the landscaping around the tower base has not been completed. The Selectmen agreed to not waive the requirement of landscaping around the tower. Wes will contact Fran Lane to advise him of this decision and that the Town will require a bond in the amount of \$5,000. for the landscaping with a stipulation that the landscaping be completed no later and July 31, 2008.

The Selectmen discussed the complaint from Donald Wilson about the “chucks of snow” deposited at the mouth of his driveway. Wes volunteered to speak to Mr. Wilson about his complaint.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration informed the Town that the equalization rate for 2007 was set at 79.7%.

The Selectmen discussed the pricing received from Iron Mountain for automatic backups of the computer system used by the Town Office. The backup system would need to be downloaded in our system and would then update information every fifteen minutes. The updates would be kept by Iron Mountain for 30 days. At a cost of almost \$200.00 per month (which was not included in the budget), the Selectmen declined the service.

Scott and Everett Moulton met with the Selectmen to discuss the landscaping. Wes expressed the fact that many departments and residents complained of the poor job performance last year. Scott explained that personal problems interfered with his performance last year and expressed his regrets for his lack of professionalism. He said that he has new equipment this year and enough workers to handle the equipment. He would like to continue to serve the Town and feels he can make up for last year’s poor performance. The Selectmen acknowledged that Scott did have a good history with the Town until last fall and that Scott should have spoken to the Selectmen about his problems. Scott said that he will be signing a one year contract with the Cemetery Trustees next week. Wes advised that if Scott’s company is chosen, the contract will be for one year only and any renewal would be based on his performance this year. Scott agreed that this is fair. The Selectmen will review all bids received and will make their final decision on a contractor in April.

A Legal Notice from the Newmarket Planning Board about a public hearing on March 18th at 7:00pm was reviewed. This is for a Minor Site Plan requested by the Town of Newmarket/Verizon Wireless.

The Selectmen agreed to hire Ann April on a temporary basis to work as the Administrative Assistant in Nancy Spencer’s absence. Ann will start training on March 24th and will work on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

Joe Bernstein’s letter to Chief Reed was reviewed. The Selectmen will respond to the letter when the investigation has been completed.

As the Town did not receive any bids for the position of Auditor, Michael volunteered to contact two firms to inquire as to whether or not they would be interested in the position. These firms were recommended by Bob Sanderson of Plodzick and Sanderson, PA.

We made a motion accept the minutes of the February 26th, 2008 Selectmen’s Meeting as written. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Wes will contact Clay Mitchell about suggested changes to his proposed contract with the Town of Newfields.

Wes, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Newfields, thanks James McIlroy and commends him for his four years of service to the Town as a Selectman and wishes James well.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant